Students encouraged to submit FAFSA early

By Stephen Baklund
Staff Reporter

The deadline to turn in your FAFSA for Fall Quarter is May 26, but staff encourage you to get it turned in as soon as possible.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid determines your eligibility for grants, scholarships, loans, work study and state aid.

The FAFSA is income-based, so eligibility and benefits are different for everyone, but it is also first-come, first-serve so the sooner it is finished the better.

"It’s important to turn in your FAFSA early because we process them in the order we receive applications, and some of the money like the FSEOG (Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant) is limited," said Sherri Ballantyne, director of Financial Aid and Financial Aid Services at Highline.

Ballantyne said that Highline receives only about $177,000 per year in FSEOG money, yet the average student at Highline who applies for the FAFSA gets an estimated $2,800 per quarter. According to studentaid.ed.gov, "each participating school receives a certain amount of FSEOG funds each year from the U.S. Department of Education’s office of Federal Student Aid. Once the full amount of the school's FSEOG funds has been awarded to students, no more FSEOG awards can be made for that year."

One of the most important things to do, which many students forget, is to check the status of the FAFSA. By Adam Horner
Staff Reporter

Des Moines’ economic situation is looking up, thanks to a number of projects coming online, or threatening to.

City officials say they are optimistic about the city’s economic prospects in the coming years.

“We’re encouraged,” said Michael Matthias, Des Moines’ assistant city manager and economic development manager. “We’re where a number of things are going to come online.”

The Four Points by Sheraton Hotel along Pacific Highway South opened early last month, and has the potential to provide increased property taxes as well as sales and hotel/motel taxes.

Along 24th Avenue South, the Des Moines Creek Business Park sits on 87 acres of land owned by the Port of Seattle. Matthias explained that the Port has leased the land to Panattoni, a development company out of Southern California.

The development project is proceeding in three phases, and will be home for a new regional headquarters for the Federal Aviation Administration; Greencore foods, a sandwich production company; and R&2 Sports, a winter sports equipment manufacturer; as well as the potential for other tenants.

The new FAA facility is expected to bring 1600 family-wage jobs to the area.
By Jim Sullivan
Staff Reporter

An attempted hit and run was foiled due to a good Samaritan who witnessed the accident.

The vehicle was parked in the South Parking Lot at 11:36 a.m. on Feb. 25.

When the owner returned, he found damage along with a note from a bystander who happened to see the accident. The note included the license plate number of the other car.

Des Moines Police were notified of the incident and officers were able to locate the owner of the other vehicle.

The police officer directed the owner to return to campus where the two involved individuals traded information.

It is unknown if there were any consequences for the driver leaving the scene of the accident as Public Safety officers have not heard back on the incident.

By Alejandro Villalon
Staff Reporter

Civic engagement is topic at First Fridays

By Alejandro Villalon
Staff Reporter

Get Help with Transferring

Learn about programs and how best to transfer to Washington universities at the Transfer Center.

- Information on the University of Washington-Tacoma Global Honors Program will be available in Building 6, room 164 at noon on March 8.
- The Central-Des Moines Information Technology & Administrative Management program will be held in Building 6, room 164 at noon on March 8.
- CMST 230 Small Group Communication class organized the event.

It's not about finding the best college... it's about finding the right college that is best for YOU! Learn more about some factors to consider when selecting a transfer school and find out how to efficiently transfer.

Honor Highline’s vets on Monday

Highline’s veterans will be honored with a reception in the Mt. Constance room of Building 8 at 2 – 3:30 p.m. on March 7.

Referrals will be served at this reception, and several guest speakers will speak.

How to Select a Four-Year College Workshop!

Students interested in transferring to a four-year college may find this meeting helpful. A representative from the Washington State Student Association will discuss considerations for selecting a transfer school.
Finding a sense of inclusion

New director has big plans for student leadership

By Olivia Sullivan
Staff Reporter

I sha Valencia wants to bring the same sense of belonging that she felt during her college years to Highline’s campus.

Valencia is the new director for student leadership and just began her fourth year working at Highline.

Previously, Valencia was the assistant director, but was recently promoted.

The Washington native was born in Sunnyvale, but grew up in Northern California.

As a Mexican American, Valencia lived in a bi-cultural community and speaks both English and Spanish.

Valencia was the first person in her family to go to college. She attended California State University, also known as Chico State. She earned her bachelor’s degree in child development with a minor in psychology.

“This is where I learned to follow my passions,” Valencia said. “I wasn’t so focused on getting a specific degree, but I knew I loved learning. I was intrigued by the learning process which led me to my degree.”

In college, Valencia worked closely with educational opportunity programs, such as Upward Bound and Trio. Through para-professional work, Valencia discovered her passion for working with college students.

Valencia was introduced to the NASPA Undergraduate Fellows program during her undergraduate years at Chico State. She said this program pairs you with a mentor from the college, who guides you through different aspects of what it means to have a career in student affairs and work with college students.

“I took advantage of every opportunity they had,” Valencia said. She was also heavily involved with her college community and took on many leadership roles, which included being president of her sorority, Lambda Theta Nu.

“It was a significant chapter in my college experience,” Valencia said. According to the Lambda Theta Nu Sorority, Inc.’s website, the organization aims to open doors of opportunity for Latina women in higher education with emphasis on academics, community service, and sisterhood.

Although the media portrays sororities in a negative light, Valencia can vouch for the opposite.

“It was the first time I saw a sorority reflect my values,” said Valencia. “They valued education, excellence, community service... These were all things that are important to me.”

Valencia was in college for five years and said she took her time deciding what she wanted to do in life. After graduation from Chico State, Valencia was offered an internship at the University of Vermont. At the end of the internship, a job position at the university in the student activities office.

The internship also gave her the chance for a graduate assistantship, where she could work and study. In return, her years at the University of Vermont for graduate school were completely paid for.

“I knew I wanted to live in a city that was near family,” Valencia said. “So I put all my energy into finding a job at a college or university in Northern California or the Seattle area.”

Valencia earned her master of education degree with a focus in higher education and student affairs administration, she worked at Seattle University, and then began her career at Highline in 2013.

When a colleague suggested Valencia apply for the assistant director position at the Center for Leadership and Service here at Highline, she eagerly took the chance.

“I read the job description and immediately knew the position was a perfect fit with my passions and what I was looking for in the next step of my career,” Valencia said. “I was especially excited about the possibility of working with community college students considering I always knew I wanted to work at community college since starting my career.”

At Highline, Valencia said the Center for Leadership and Service revolves around students.

“We’re really focused on creating a sense of belonging,” she said. “The ultimate goal is we want people to feel like there is a place on campus where they belong.”

By “place,” Valencia said she means this as a community, a group of people to feel a sense of acceptance with; it extends beyond the physical spaces on campus.

The Center for Leadership and Service values relationship building and having students get involved on campus.

She said the people of the Center want to take the time to get to know students and have a positive impact on a student’s Highline experience.

“We want to support you as a student in two major ways,” she said. “First, we want to connect you to a community and second, we want to aid in developing you as a leader.”

The leadership center provides the opportunities for students to engage and become more of a leader themselves.

“We want you to define for yourself ‘What does it mean to be a leader and how am I a leader?’” she said.

Through clubs, workshops, presentations, peer-to-peer meetings, and word of mouth, the Center for Leadership and Service is very present on campus, Valencia said.

“I firmly believe everybody has leadership qualities about themselves and when put in the right environment, they’re able to really see those things.”

The leadership office hires about 18-20 student leaders who work in various branches of the center. This could be a number of positions from club development to the marketing and outreach team.

The Center for Leadership and Service has a busy event schedule for each quarter. In spring, the center will hold a Leadership Luncheon to promote job opportunities for students within the program.

“There is never a week where we don’t have anything going on,” said Valencia.

Valencia said if you can’t find what you’re looking for on campus, the Leadership team encourages students to come help develop it and make your ideas come to life.

Valencia’s challenges with her director position are few and far between, besides not having enough hours in the day.

Although the Center for Leadership and Service is beyond to offer something that someone is interested in, Valencia said she also can’t help but wonder if they’re doing enough to accommodate Highline’s campus of more than 10,000 people.

“I feel like I’ve found my purpose and what I’m supposed to be doing in my life,” said Valencia. “It’s more rewarding than it is challenging.”

The Leadership and Service program has a well-known, positive reputation and is commonly looked to for best practices, Valencia said.

As for the new position, Valencia hopes to improve the campus by getting more students connect to leadership roles in formal ways.

“Identity will always intersect with leadership,” Valencia said. “At that intersection is where you find your authentic voice and the way that you choose to lead. That energizes me on a daily basis.”
Negative labels hurt people

Everybody is stereotyped. Everybody has some preconceived bias that the community has placed on them because of their race, gender, religion, or some other minute detail about them. It doesn’t matter if you are black or white, short or tall, male or female. We all have them. Assumptions made about people due to these stereotypes are baseless and inaccurate.

For example, an assumption made by many people is that if you are a Muslim, you are associated with ISIS. The truth is, ISIS is an organization comprised of horrible people who make up a minute percentage of the Muslim population. The Islam religion is one of the largest religions in the world, with over a billion followers, most of these people are kind, average people. To hold a bias over a billion people due to a select few’s mistakes is ridiculous.

Another assumption that some people make are that police officers are violent toward the public. Although some officers may do bad things with the power they have, most officers are good, genuine people who are just trying to do their job. The list could go on forever: disabled people are useless, pretty women are dumb, people who smoke marijuana are lazy and unmotivated.

However, these claims are not a one-size-fits-all kind of thing. Everybody is different and it is unfair to these people that assumptions are made without being given an opportunity to show who they really are. These labels can affect someone’s chance of employment, how they are treated by people, but most importantly, they can affect someone’s safety. It seems like every day, we hear about a new person killed in a hate related crime.

It’s important that these social stigmas cease, so that people don’t have to be afraid to walk down the street due to their skin color. Instead of judging and fearing people different from us, we shouldn’t be afraid to ask questions and get to know others. If we reach out for that first handshake, we can slowly break down the walls we’ve built up between ourselves.

Have something to say?

Have something you want to say to the student body?
The Highline Thunderword is asking for students to voice their opinions on what matters to them. We’re accepting submissions in the form of letters and columns.

Letters to the editor should be no more than 200 words; columns should be no more than 600 words.

Send submissions to thunderword@highline.edu by Monday for print on Thursday.

Write to us!


Sam McCullough is the arts editor for the Thunderword.

Grow up, and legalize the boob

In recent decades, breastfeeding has begun its transition from being taboo to being a common practice. Like many things in our society, legislation changes perceptions.

For example, before the legalization of marijuana, some people thought marijuana was something only deadbeat stoners took part in. But now, those same people appreciate the medical benefits that legalized marijuana brings people.

So, what kind of boob would vote against legalizing public breastfeeding?

Thankfully, it appears we have mature adults in the state Senate, as a bill to do just that passed with unanimous support.

Senate Bill 6149 requires employers to offer pregnant workers accommodations, such as extra bathroom breaks, food and water breaks, limits on lifting heavy objects and time off for doctor appointments.

The bill also makes breastfeeding legal to do in any public place.

Mothers shouldn’t be forced to hide in their car or a stall in the bathroom to feed their child. Even though many people are breastfed as infants, they don’t support it as adults. According to a poll conduct-
9. CHEMISTRY: What element does the Br symbol stand for?

10. ANCIENT WORLD: Which key figure in the Trojan War was described in literature as having “the face that launched a thousand ships”?

Answers
1. Colorado
2. Alice Cooper
3. Beer and beer making
4. A dolphin
5. Colony
6. Obtuse
7. France
8. Gabriel Fahrenheit
9. Bromine
10. Helen of Troy

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1. GEOGRAPHY: What river flows through the Grand Canyon?

2. MUSIC: Who sang the pop hit “School’s Out”?

3. LANGUAGE: What is the subject studied in zythology?

4. MOVIES: In Ace Ventura: Pet Detective, what kind of creature was Jim Carrey looking for?

5. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of ants called?

6. MATH: What is the name of an angle that is more than 90 degrees but less than 180 degrees?

7. HISTORY: Which country gave the Statue of Liberty to the United States?

8. INVENTIONS: Who invented the mercury thermometer?

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Whatever decisions you’re faced with this week, rely on your strong Aries instincts, and base them on your honest feelings, not necessarily on what others might expect you to do.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Your sensitive Taurean spirit is pained by what you feel is an unwarranted attack by a miffed colleague. But your sensible self should see it as proof that you must be doing something right.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): More fine-tuning might be in order before you can be absolutely certain that you’re on the right track. Someone close to you might offer to help. The weekend favors family get-togethers.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): The week continues to be a balancing act. Try to dream and doing. But by week’s end, you should have a much better idea of what you actually plan to do and how you plan to do it.

LEO (July 23 to August 22): Changing your plans can be risky, but it can also be a necessary move. Recheck your facts before you act. Tense encounters should ease by midweek, and all should be well by the weekend.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22): You might still be trying to adjust to recent changes. But things should improve considerably as you get to see some positive results. An uneasy personal matter calls for more patience.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22): Congratulations. Your good intentions are finally recognized, and long-overdue appreciation should follow. Keep working toward improvements wherever you think they’re necessary.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 22): Try to look at your options without prejudging any of them. Learn the facts, and then make your assessments. Spend the weekend enjoying films, plays and musical events.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21): Someone might want to take advantage of the Sagittarian’s sense of fair play. But before you ride off right to what you’ve been told is a wrong, be sure of your facts.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19): You might be surprised to learn that not everyone agrees with your ideas. But this can prove to be a good thing. Go over them and see where improvements can be made.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18): After taking advice on a number of matters in recent months, expect to be called on to return the gesture. And, by the way, you might be surprised at who makes the request.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20): Reassure everyone concerned that a change of mind isn’t necessarily a change of heart. You might still want to pursue a specific goal, but feel a need to change the way you’ll get there.

BORN THIS WEEK: You are able to make room in your heart for others, and that makes you a very special person in their lives.

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Infuse your food with Asian flavors

If you're tired of cooking the same thing over and over, try infusing your recipes with new flavors. Asian cooking techniques and flavors encompass thousands of sauces and condiments. Here's a quick overview of several different types of popular Asian sauces, pastes, oils, wines and vinegars that will open up a new world of possibilities for spicing up your evening meals.

**ASIAN SAUCES**

Soy sauce: Made from traditionally fermented soybeans and wheat, soy sauce has a dark color and a slightly sweet, mildly salty flavor that isn't overpowering.

Dark soy sauce: Soy sauce mixed with molasses and corn syrup, and thickened with cornstarch and kiddo to a syrupy consistency.

Tamari: A gluten-free soy sauce made without the traditional addition of wheat, a saltier, stronger, savoury flavor that is perfect for seasoning meat, vegetables, cooking liquids, sauces and marinades, or as a condiment for rice or noodles.

Hoisin sauce: This dark, rich, paste-like sauce has a spicy-sweet flavor and reddish-brown color, and is best used as a condiment for rice or noodles.

Oyster-flavored sauce: Sauce made from oyster extract (super-concentrated oyster broth), salt, sugar, thickening starch, carmel coloring, seasonings and cornstarch to create a thick, salty-sweet sauce with smoky notes for stir-fries or as a sauce for vegetables.

Plum sauce: Plum sauce is made from a combination of salted plums, apricots, yams, rice vinegar, chilies, sugar, and other spices. It varies in flavor from sweet to tart to salty, and its texture ranges from smooth to a chunky, jam-like texture. Char sui sauce: A combination of fermented soybeans, vinegar, tomato paste, chilies, garlic, sugar and Chinese spices; used on Chinese barbecue sauce.

Hoisin sauce typically is made from fermented soybeans, vinegar, garlic, sugar, red chilies and Chinese spices, plus various other spices and starches for thickening.

**VINEGARS AND WINE**

Mirin: Sweet, low-alcohol rice wine widely used in Japanese cuisine. Can be used as a substitute for vinegar or wine, or used as a glaze or marinade.

**OILS AND PASTES**

Sesame paste: A thick, nut-buttery paste, made from toasted white sesame seeds.

Sesame oil: A dark amber, nutty oil comes from infusing pressed sesame seeds used on a finished dish.

Char siu sauce: A combination of oyster sauce, salted black beans, rice wine; has a savory, slightly salty flavor that sometimes gets a little kick from garlic and hot chilies.

Fish sauce: This sauce is made from fermented anchovies and other fish or shellfish. It adds a distinct, deep rich flavor to savory dishes and is often used in small quantities (about 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon at a time) in place of salt in Asian curries, sauces and marinades.

**SPICES AND STARCHES**

Black bean sauce: Made of salted black beans and rice wine; has a savory, slightly salty flavor that sometimes gets a little kick from garlic and hot chilies.

Sambal: Very spicy chili paste made from ground red chilies, vinegar, lime juice, garlic or other flavoring agents. Usually combined with other ingredients, in small quantities, to make a sauce.

**SUGARS AND STARCHES**

Rice: Made from rice; a mild, less tart flavor. Variations include black, red, seasoned, Chinese and Japanese.

Mirin: Sweet, low-alcohol rice wine widely used in Japanese cuisine. Can be used as a substitute for vinegar or wine, or used as a glaze or marinade.

This recipe for Asian curry chicken and shrimp soup includes several types of sauces and spices to create a burst of flavor in a bowl.

**ASIAN CURRY CHICKEN AND SHRIMP SOUP**

4 cups fat-free, less-sodium chicken broth
1 tablespoon fish sauce
1 tablespoon oyster sauce
2 teaspoons minced garlic
1 1/2 teaspoons minced fresh ginger
1/4 teaspoon green, yellow or red curry paste
8 (8-ounce) package mushroom rooms, cleaned and sliced
1/2 pound peeled and deveined large shrimp
1/2 pound skinless, boneless chicken breast, cut into 1-inch pieces
3/4 cup fresh lime juice or 2 tablespoons rice wine vinegar
1 1/2 teaspoons sugar
1 (13.5-ounce) can light coconut milk
2 tablespoons (1/2-inch) sliced fresh ginger
2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro

1. Combine the broth, fish and oyster sauces, garlic, ginger and curry in a large Dutch oven, stirring to combine. Add mushroom rooms to a boil. Reduce heat, and simmer 4 minutes.
2. Add the shrimp, chicken and snow peas; bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat, and simmer 3 minutes. Stir in lime juice or vinegar, sugar and coconut milk. Cook 2 minutes or until thoroughly heated. Sprinkle with the green onions and cilantro. Serves 4.

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Separating your eggs is no yolk

Many recipes call for egg whites or egg yolks, which means the eggs must be separated. Eggs separate most easily when cold. You can use an egg separator, but the half-shell method works just as well.

To separate an egg, on the side of a bowl, sharply tap the eggshell along its middle to make a crosswise crack. With your thumbs, gently pull open the shell along the crack, letting some of the white run into the bowl. Slowly transfer the yolk back and forth from one half-shell to the other, being careful not to break the yolk on any sharp shell edges, until all the white has run into the bowl.

Cover leftover unbroken egg yolks with cold water and refrigerate for up to two days; drain before using.

**Good Housekeeping**

**Banana Cream Pie**

1 (9-inch) homemade, frozen or refrigerated pie shell
Custard:
2 1/2 cups sugar
1/4 cup cornstarch
Pinch salt
3 cups whole milk
2 tablespoons butter
1 tablespoon vanilla extract
3 ripe medium bananas
Homemade Whipped Cream:
1/2 cups heavy or whipping cream
1 tablespoon sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1. Bake pie shell as directed.
2. Meanwhile, prepare Custard: In 3-quart saucepan, combine sugar, cornstarch and salt. With wire whisk, beat in milk and egg yolks. Cook over medium heat until mixture thickens and boils, stirring constantly; boil 1 minute. Remove from heat; stir in butter and vanilla. Cool 10 minutes.
3. Slice bananas. Arrange half of bananas in bottom of pie shell, spread with half of custard. Repeat with remaining bananas and custard. Press plastic wrap onto surf ace of custard. Refrigerate pie until custard is set or overnight.
4. To serve, prepare Homemade Whipped Cream: In medium bowl, with mixer at medium speed, beat cream, sugar and vanilla to stiff peaks. Remove plastic cover and spread cream over filling.

Enjoy homemade chicken noodle soup

Nothing beats Grandma’s chicken and noodles on a cold winter day. Try this recipe to bring back a warm memory!

1 cup finely chopped celery
1 cup finely chopped onion
10 (3/4) cup Healthy Request Cream of Chicken Soup
1/4 cup Kraft fat-free mayonnaise
2 tablespoons fat-free milk
1 cup cubed Velveeta Light processed cheese
1 medium bowl, with mixer at medium speed, beat cream, sugar and vanilla to stiff peaks. Remove plastic cover and spread cream over filling.

1. In a large skillet sprayed with butter-flavored cooking spray, sauté celery and onion for 6-8 minutes. Stir in chicken soup, mayonnaise, milk and cheese. Add chicken, pimiento and noodles. Mix gently to combine.
2. Lower heat and simmer for 6-8 minutes or until cheese is melted and mixture is heated through, stirring often. Serves 4.

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Purses tell stories of the past

By Olivia Sullivan
Staff Reporter

Purses, glitz, and kangaroos can all be found at the White River Valley Museum in Auburn.

The museum’s newest exhibit, “Small Bags for Big Events: 100 Years of Pretty Purses,” show cases purses from different time periods throughout history.

“We created this exhibit as a totally painless and enjoyable way to teach women’s history,” Museum Director Patricia Cosgrove said. “Fashion changes as a reflection of women’s lives and activities.”

A woman’s purse holds much more than a wallet, keys, and some makeup; a woman’s unique life is reflected by the contents in her purse, Cosgrove said.

Small Bags/Big Events aims to entertain and educate the public, but also hopes to raise awareness of the Auburn museum, said Kate Slaminko, the guest curator of the exhibit.

Slaminko’s collection — and many other purses are on display to tell a story about how the societal roles of a woman have changed over history.

Cosgrove said, “If you didn’t drive, and since make up was only for ‘ladies of the night’ and women never purchased anything independently, then you didn’t need to have keys, lipstick or money.”

“That describes a woman in 1890,” said Cosgrove. “In 2016 you may need to have your cell phone, credit cards, keys, medicine, Kleenex, lipstick... This woman acts much more inde pendently than does the one of 1890, and she needs to keep the tools of that life by her side.”

The shape, size, and design of purses have evolved over time alongside the role of women in society. They are designed to hold what we need to carry, said Cosgrove.

In the exhibit, the purses and their contents are presented by the decade. A simple draw string bag of 1890, a knit purse made during World War II, and a flashy jeweled bag from the 1920s are just some of the 150 purses brought together for the event.

Along with the bags, the exhibit has dresses, hats, and an extensive collection of brooches from past decades on show.

One hat in particular at the exhibit is made of kangaroo fur and has a matching purse, too.

“While it is no more important than any of the other [purs es], it makes a good head line,” said Cosgrove.

The exhibit is intended for everyone, but may resonate better with women and especially multigenerational groups of women, Slaminko and Cosgrove said.

“The White River Valley Museum is located at 918 H St SE in Auburn. Small Bags/Big Events is open until mid-June. Tickets are $5 for adults, $2 for seniors, and children 2 or younger are always free. The exhibit is open from noon to 4 p.m. on Wednesday through Sunday. For discount deals and more information, visit wrvmuseum.org.

There’s nothing wrong with Kanye West

There have been men who have changed the world. History is a canon where everyone uses the actions of those great men before him, and Kanye has decided that he wants to be a part of that canon.

That is how he has defined himself. That’s where his projected self-image comes from.

Let him change the future if he can. It’s not like anyone can stop him anyway.

Representative of Kanye’s public persona is his regular thematic counterpoints in his past four albums, pitting selfish egoism and selfless concern for others against each other.

Through the structure of his songs on the album Ye, Kanye West presents himself as an egoist first and then shocks the listener with a shift in perspective that presents that egoism as an attitude which supports a selfless lifestyle.

If there is one message that a person could take from his career, it’s that egoism, ambition and self-love go a long way in living true to yourself.

People are “slowed down by their perception in themselves,” West said in an interview with BBC Radio’s Zane Lowe.

“If you’re taught you can’t do anything you won’t do anything. I was taught I can do everything,” West said.

Kanye West is an opportunistic, an asshole, an immutable visionary, a self-proclaimed God, and one of the boldest people on the face of the planet today. And that is why I love him and his work.

It takes some sort of gumption to stand up in front of a booming and hissing world and speak your mind. West shows the world exactly who he is — terrible flaws and all.

He is a man who sets upon himself to reimage and recreate the world around him, and who has refused failure at every turn.

In his own words, he’ll re-in vent everything from architecture to water bottles.

He’s not just set on understanding culture or studying it. He has decided that he will be the catalyst for a worldwide cultural shift in perspective.

Which, despite the apparent level of futility of this task, is commendable and also not entirely unheard of.

There have been men who have changed the world. West is a catalyst for a worldwide cultural shift in perspective.

Cotton Patch Gospel opens on March 23, and runs until April 20.

For showtimes and ticket information, visit www.taprootthea tre.org/buy-tickets/.

Taproot Theater is at 204 North 80th Street, Seattle.

Culture Corner

Michael Muench

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“If you’re taught you can’t do anything you won’t do anything. I was taught I can do everything,” West said.

Kanye West is an opportunistic, an asshole, an immutable visionary, a self-proclaimed God, and one of the boldest people on the face of the planet today. And that is why I love him and his work.

It takes some sort of gumption to stand up in front of a booming and hissing world and speak your mind. West shows the world exactly who he is — terrible flaws and all.

He is a man who sets upon himself to reimage and recreate the world around him, and who has refused failure at every turn.

In his own words, he’ll re-in vent everything from architecture to water bottles.

He’s not just set on understanding culture or studying it. He has decided that he will be the catalyst for a worldwide cultural shift in perspective.

Which, despite the apparent level of futility of this task, is commendable and also not entirely unheard of.

There have been men who have changed the world. West is a catalyst for a worldwide cultural shift in perspective.

Cotton Patch Gospel opens on March 23, and runs until April 20.

For showtimes and tick ets, visit www.taproottheatre.org/buy-tickets/.

Taproot Theater is at 204 North 80th Street, Seattle.
Film festival showcases many different genres

By John Van de Ven
Staff Reporter

Tiny Issaquah steps once again into the klieg lights when it hosts its third annual International Film Festival this weekend.

The city of Issaquah Arts Commission has partnered with the Seattle International Film Festival to bring some of the best international films to this small burg nestled in the Cascade foothills.

The Issaquah International Film Festival will showcase five feature-length films and five short films from the Seattle International Film Festival.

“This is the third year the city of Issaquah Arts Commission has partnered with Seattle International Film Festival to bring an international film festival to Issaquah,” said Issaquah city Arts Coordinator Amy Dukes. “This is the second year we’ve partnered with Cinebarre.”

The Cinebarre is a multiplex theater that serves light meals, beer and wine to movie goers, while they enjoy watching movies on the big screen.

The festival includes two days of free film screenings, and although a limited number of tickets have been reserved, there will be tickets available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The festival will feature the movies:
- The Wave (2015), a Chinese musical film
- The Office (1999), aedish, featuring the voices of
- Good Ol’ Boy (2015), a U.S. film about a 10-year-old Indian boy growing up in 1970s America with his father pushing his Indian heritage on him constantly.
- Only Yesterday (1991), a Japanese animation film from renowned Studio Ghibli animator Isao Takahata. This is the first time this film will be shown in English, featuring the voices of Daisy Ridley (Star Wars: The Force Awakens) and Dev Patel (Slumdog Millionaire).
- Death on the Supermarket Shelf (1993), a thriller

In addition to many other films being shown, Only Yesterday is playing at the Issaquah Film Festival. This is the film’s first time being shown in American theaters since it first came out in the ‘90s.

The film shorts that will be featured are audience-favored films from the Seattle International Film Festival, including Oscar-winning and nominated shorts.

“The city of Issaquah Arts Commission is excited to partner with SIFF and Cinebarre to present films not usually screened on the Eastside,” Dukes said.

“The demand for tickets has been extraordinary and illustrates the fact that Issaquah residents want more independent and foreign film choices.”

Expanding the kinds of films usually shown in the Issaquah area is just one goal of the Arts Commission of the city.

“We are happy we can provide at least a couple of days of free film to satisfy some of the demand. We would love to expand the program to provide more days of more films in the future,” Dukes said.

The Issaquah Film Festival runs March 5–6, with beginning show times at 1 p.m. both days, at the Issaquah Cinebarre Theater, 1490 NW 11th Ave. Issaquah.

Additional information and the film festival schedule can be found at http://www.siff.net/cinema/issaquah-international-film-festival-2016.
Men are victorious in double overtime

By Charles Prater
Staff Reporter

The men’s basketball team has ended the season on a good note, finishing the season off on a three-game winning streak. Highline, 11-3 (20-7 overall), finished the season second in the West Division having lost to Lower Columbia twice and Pierce once.

The T-Birds first game was at home against Pierce last Wednesday. The Thunderbirds lost to the Raiders the previous time they faced each other, losing 82-74. Both teams struggled to shoot the ball all game, with Highline and Pierce hitting less than 38 percent from the field.

The T-Birds’ advantage came from the three ball, as they hit more than 53 percent of their three-pointers. The Raiders were 32 percent from behind the arc.

The T-Birds were able to take a one-point lead with about four minutes left.

Until the last remaining seconds, it was a back and forth game, with both teams tied at 51 a piece.

With 17 seconds left, Highline secured an offensive rebound and called a timeout to draw up a game plan.

Highline’s Jalen McGruder took the inbound pass and with time winding down, teammate Nick Edens in the middle of the defense for the game-winner with 1.2 seconds left.

“The play we drew up was defended, so Jalen McGruder did a great job of attacking the basket and finding Nick as the defense rotated,” said Highline Head Coach Che Dawson.

Coby Myles was the leading scorer for the T-Birds with 20 points, hitting four out of 10 three’s in the game.

Leading scorer for the Raiders was Casey Gerhart with 16 points.

The next game for Highline was an important one as, with a win, would get the No. 2 spot for the west in the playoffs.

The game was scheduled to be played last Saturday, Feb. 27 at 6 p.m., but due to miscommunication with an officiating crew, the game was canceled.

The NWAC rescheduled the game for Tuesday, March 1 at 6 p.m.

It was long game for the T-Birds, as it took double overtime to get the win, but with the victory the, Highline has now secured a home game in the regional round of the playoffs.

“It was a strange situation. It felt like a loser-out playoff game, but was the last regular season game with major seeding implications,” said Coach Dawson. “Our guys did a great job with that situation.”

The teams were identical in shooting with 37 percent a piece for the game and even on defense.

The biggest difference came from the Titans fouling as the T-Birds went to the free-throw line 20 times and knocked down 15.

Jamie Orme was the leading scorer with 20 points and 14 rebounds. T-Bird Ty Peacock was all over the stat sheet with 18 points, seven rebounds, six assists, and four three-pointers.

Guard Jalen McGruder had a solid game with 13 points and six rebounds.

The Titans’ Jake Nelson was the top scorer for the team with 22 points.

“It was a great team effort. We battled adversity leading up to the game during the game with the highest level of effort, cohesion and character,” said Coach Dawson.

“The guys continue to learn that you always have a chance if you have those things as a group.”

Now with the regular season over, the T-Birds will turn their focus on Lane.

Highline will play the regional round at home this Saturday, March 5 at 5 p.m.
Softball team ready to begin season

By Charles Prater  Staff Reporter

With almost an entirely new team full of freshmen, the Thunderbirds still have the same goal as always, winning a championship.

Come Spring Quarter, the softball team will almost be in mid-season form as the ladies have already played in four pre-season games. The T-Birds will look at different this season as the team only returns two starters from last year.

Third baseman/pitcher Cheyenne Haas and out-fielder Alyson Rippingham are the only returners from last year and the only sophomores on the team.

Haas is a two-sport athlete at Highline having played volleyball in Fall Quarter, where she named MVP of the West Region.

Last year, Haas was first on the team in home runs and second in RBIs with 17.

Rippingham is also a two-sport athlete, playing basketball for the T-Birds. Last season she was second on the team in batting average with .463.

The rest of the team is made up of 10 freshman, all who Highline Head Coach Jason Evans says are, “shining and doing well this season.”

Freshmen players include pitchers Precious Tabangcura and Kayla Higa, both from Hawaii and Stefani Gollin from Canada.

Along with Haas as a pitcher, Coach Evans says pitching will be one of the team’s strengths this season.

Other freshmen are second baseman Taylor Poe from Auburn Riverside, outfielder Maggie Victor from Decatur, catcher Morgen Struck from Skyview and third baseman Van Allen from Emerald Ridge.

The T-Birds played their pre-season games in the Richland Crossover on Feb. 27-28, going 2-2.

On the first day there, Highline played in two games, beating Big Bend 7-4 and losing to last year’s NWAC Champions Spokane 12-1.

The second day there, the T-Birds went 1-1, beating North Idaho 14-10 and losing to Yakima Valley 11-6.

“Despite the losses, we definitely have the team chemistry and the talent to open a lot of eyes this season,” said Coach Evans.

The T-Birds currently have a 2-2 record in the West Division.

“Our goals this season are to win the west and go deep into playoffs in May held at Delta Park in Portland,” said Coach Evans.

“We are just very excited to see where our journey leads us to at the end of the season.”

The T-Birds play a double-header on Saturday, March 5 against Chemeketa at 3 p.m. and against Wenatchee Valley at 5 p.m., both at the RAC Complex field in Lacey.

They play another double-header on Sunday, March 6 against Treasure Valley at 9 a.m. and against Clark at 11 a.m. at Lacey.

Lady T-Birds miss playoffs by one game

By Samuel Biehn  Staff Reporter

The Lady T-Birds, despite their 67-39 blowout victory against the Pierce Raiders on Feb. 24, have been eliminated from the post-season given South Puget Sound’s Feb. 24 victory over Tacoma.

Highline lost their final game of the season to Tacoma, 63-51, on Feb. 27.

The win against the Raiders, although bittersweet, showed the talent and the potential of this Highline squad. The Thunderbirds led through all four quarters and kept their foot on the gas pedal throughout the entire 60 minutes.

“In the first quarter we listened to coach. We had some good looks and were able to finish,” Highline guard Chantal Hill said.

Highline had four players in double figures for the night, led by Jasmyne Holmes who completed a double-double with 16 points, 10 rebounds, one block, one steal and three assists.

“We played together as a team and we weren’t rushing anything. We played on momentum,” guard Alicia Westbrook said. “We shared the ball.”

Holmes’ domination on the boards during the game was an exclamation point for the T-Birds great performance rebounding, as the team finished with the game with 49 rebounds.

A game of 31-24 at halftime with Highline in the lead quickly transformed into a blowout in the second half. The Lady T-Birds outscored the Raiders 36-15 and removed any doubt about which team was going to win.

Highline kept the momentum going with its 11 points off of 10 Pierce turnovers, while staying strong at the rim with 38 defensive rebounds.

Additionally, the Thunderbirds turned in one of their best shooting performances in recent games, as Highline finished 55 percent from the field.

Highline guard Alyson Rippingham said that the team didn’t rush shots and just let the play develop.

“I think that made us so successful,” said Rippingham.

Pierce, on the other hand, only had one player in double figures, guard Ayesia Rogers. Rogers’ 16 points and six rebounds wasn’t enough to stop a rolling Lady T-Birds squad in this game.

Coming into the game, Highline still had a shot at the post-season with South Puget Sound in front of them in the NWAC West.

However, the Thunderbirds needed Tacoma to pull off the upset against South Puget Sound on Feb. 24 in order to make it in. This is due to a tie breaker at 7-7 that South Puget Sound would win due to a better regular season record at 16-11.

This wasn’t the case, as South Puget Sound beat Tacoma 55-47. This essentially locked up the fourth and final tournament spot for the Clippers ahead of the final game of the season.

The loss against Tacoma on Feb. 27 was a mirror image of the season for the Lady T-Birds.

Highline started strong in the first half of the game and faded toward the end.

The Thunderbirds dropped the ball in the fourth quarter, as they were outscored 22-11.

“Our effort in the last five minutes wasn’t there,” Hill said.

“ar we lost Jasmine Holmes,” said Rippingham.

Jasmyne Holmes suffered a potential concussion in the game against Tacoma, adding to the injury struggles this Highline team has dealt with for the majority of the season.

“Coming with the late game struggles and Holmes’ injury was Tacoma coming with more energy out of the gate. We just got outplayed. It seemed as if TCC wanted it a little more than us,” Rippingham said.

“Not saying we didn’t want to win the game, because I know we did. But at points during the game, it seemed like TCC wanted it more than us.”

The Thunderbirds also seemed to let the referees get in their heads.

“We let the refs dictate the game because we weren’t getting the calls that TCC was,” Rippingham said.

Chantal Hill led the way for the Thunderbirds against Tacoma. Hill finished with 22 points and three rebounds.

Unfortunately, Hill was the only Highline player who scored in double figures, as Highline finished 22 percent from the field in the loss.

This Highline team has plenty of potential, but what the T-Birds have struggled with during the season was tapping into its potential and keeping their energy going from the first half.

Players such as Westbrook saw that lack of energy in the Tacoma game.

“Some people didn’t come ready to play. They didn’t care because they knew we weren’t going to make it into the NWAC,” Westbrook said.

Despite being eliminated from playoff contention and struggling through an up and down year, the Lady T-Birds know they can use the lessons learned this year to help them next season.

“The season was better then I thought. Because we had a lot of injuries early on, we could have rolled over but we didn’t,” Rippingham said.

The T-Birds are also looking forward to the new freshman additions that will be added to the team beginning next season.

I’m looking for new freshman to come in and fill spots and step up to the plate,” Hill said.

Hill added that the team needs to work on “staying out of the early drama between some of the teammates.”

Rippingham, who says she is in contact with Division II and III coaches about playing next season, said Highline can play up to their potential.

“With returners and new freshmen, they will be a whole different team. I’m excited to see their success,” Rippingham said.

She’s [Coach Mosley] recruiting a bunch of people,” Westbrook said.

players Precious Tabangcura and Kayla Higa, both from Hawaii and Stefani Gollin from Canada.

Along with Haas as a pitcher, Coach Evans says pitching will be one of the team’s strengths this season.

Other freshmen are second baseman Taylor Poe from Auburn Riverside and shortstop Megan Chan from Todd Beamer.

“Our middle infielders, [Poe] and [Chan], have been performing great on defense,” said Coach Evans.

“Our batting lineup is solid up and down with centerfielder Savanna Gusman leading off the order.”

Gusman is a freshman from Auburn Mountainview High School.

The last four freshmen are utility player Loreah Maranan during the game, it seemed like TCC wanted it more than us.”

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Men start championship run

By Charles Prater
Staff Reporter

The regular season has ended and the playoffs have begun for the men's basketball team with only one goal in mind.

The NWAC Playoffs begin with the regional match-ups on Saturday, March 5 and then will move to Everett at the Walt Price Fitness Center from March 10-13 to finish out the tournament.

The start of the tournament will be different than previous years. The No. 1 and 2 teams from each division will host the regional games.

Highline, 11-3 (20-9 overall), finished second in the West Division and will play a home game this Saturday against Lane, 11-5 (23-6 overall).

The T-Birds did not play the Titans in the regular season and will need to figure out how to stop NWAC leading scorer Usama Zaid.

Zaid is averaging 24 points a game along with nine rebounds which is good enough for fifth in the league.

Highline will definitely need to lean on their defensive scheme against Zaid as they are allowing the least amount of points in the league with 68 per game.

“We take pride in making it difficult for people to score,” said Highline Head Coach Che Dawson.

Other match-ups in the same bracket as the T-Birds include No. 1 Peninsula vs. No. 4 Chemeketa, No. 2 Spokane vs. No. 3 South Puget Sound, and No. 1 Big Bend vs. No. 4 Bellevue.

“There is a lot of parity headed into the tournament,” said Coach Dawson.

“Big Bend seems to jump out in terms of their league dominance, but really comes down to who plays well and who has the ball bounce their way a little bit over the four-game tournament,” he said.

“I think Highline could be a team that would give teams problems,” said Whatcom Head Coach David Dunham.

“They do a good job in their zone defense and they are well coached.”

“We don’t play with tradition at positions and we don’t have a post player, but that can also make us hard to guard,” said Spokane Coach Landon.

“I think the NWAC this year is extremely balanced from top to bottom and anyone that is fortunate enough to make it this far and into the first round of the NWAC tournament has a chance to make a serious run in Everett,” said Spokane Head Coach Jeremy Groth.

“Highline is extremely balanced with the region’s best team in terms of their league dominance and their field goal percentage with 50 percent. They come into the tournament with a winning record of 23-7 and are second in points allowed with 69 a game and is the No. 1 team in total blocks with 136.

“Our defense is probably our best strength, but we also have a very strong inside post presence as well as shooters to stretch defenses,” said Whatcom Coach Dunham.

“The Orcas’ freshman center Logan Schilder, who leads the league in blocks with 2.5 a game, will need to come up huge as Whatcom will be going up against one of the best shooting teams in the NWAC.

“Clarkamkas, 11-5 (19-10 overall), and No. 1 Lower Columbia are the regional champions as they take on Tacoma, 8-6 (15-12 overall).

“It’s clear that all of the teams coming into the tournament have an upside with a great chance to win it all.

“Once the final eight are in Everett it only takes three wins in a row, obviously I think defense will be critical but whoever gets hot at the right time could take home the trophy,” said Spokane Coach Landon.

“To win it all you will have to have four great games in the NWAC tournament of playing your best basketball,” said Spokane Coach Groth.

“You will have to compete and execute at a high level every night,” he said.

“You also will need to have an edge when it comes to toughness and playing together.”

“We have to play better defense than any team in the tournament for four games,” said Coach Dawson. “Only after that can you focus on the other necessary ingredients which include offensive efficiency and winning the boards.”

The T-Bird’s game against Lane will be played this Saturday in the Pavilion at 5 p.m.

Whichever team makes it out of the regional round will move on to play in the Elite Eight on March 11 at Everett.

The semi-finals will be held on March 12, with the championship game on March 13 at 8 p.m.
Invest in your future early

By Konner Hancock
Staff Reporter

Invest in your future today with mutual funds.

On Feb. 11, Highline’s Student Small Capital Investment Club sponsored a mutual funds presentation; Bill Webster, Highline’s business instructor and CFP and Stockbroker for KMS Financial Services Inc. talked about understanding and how to invest in mutual funds.

Mutual funds are when people pool money together into a mutual fund. An investor invests into a pool of money, with a group of people, to professionals that will invest into a number of stocks and bonds,” said Webster. The benefit of investing in mutual funds is that the initial investment is lower because several people are pooling their money together. Another opportunity is being able to sell shares at almost any time during business days.

Webster said the advantages of long-term investing is dollar-cost averaging, the technique of buying a fixed dollar amount of a particular investment on a regular schedule. Through this method, "When buying more shares, you wait until stock prices are low and buy less when stock prices are high," Webster said.

Another advantage of long-term investing is compound interest, earning interest on top of interest, which increasing overall gains, or dividend investment, earning more shares based on the shares that are already invested in.

If you are thinking of transferring to UW Tacoma, consider enhancing your education by applying to this program! Members enjoy numerous benefits including an engaging seminar-based curriculum, scholarships, funded study abroad opportunities, and social and service activities.

Find out more by attending this session at Highline!
Monday, March 7th
12:15 PM
Highline Transfer Center, Building 6, 1st floor, Room 164
No need to sign up to attend
By John Van de Ven
Staff Reporter

Romantic walks down the Redondo Boardwalk may not have to wait much longer, although the apparent lowest bidder for the restoration project ran afoul of federal regulations in the bid process. In November of 2014 the boardwalk was destroyed by a violent storm, which caused many of the wooden planks to be ripped up, rendering it unusable.

Days after the Des Moines City Council approved the lowest bid to work on the project, the Federal Highway Administration dropped the hammer and mixed the selection. Of the six bids received, the lowest was from Quigg Brothers Inc. of Aberdeen and came in right on budget. Now, due to the Federal Highway Administration's rejection, the project has been handed to the second lowest bid that is $176,463 over the engineer's estimation.

"There will be no delays," said Des Moines City Engineer Andrew Merges. "The city awarded the second lowest bid this past Monday on Feb. 11."

The bid is now awarded to employee owned Steller J Corp., based in Woodland, Wash. Officials did not provide more details about why Quigg failed to qualify. A notice to proceed will be issued the week of March 7. Construction will then start within 10 days.

The project is still slated to take 110 days, which places the completion date somewhere around the beginning of July. The Federal Highway Administration rejected the lowest bid because one of the sub-contractors was unqualified, Merges said.

Although the new contractor's price is over the $4.7 million budget, the extra $176,463 added onto the original engineer's estimation will be no problem. The overage can be absorbed by the project's healthy contingency fund, Merges said.

The Federal Highway Administration has contributed $2,388,265 to help fund the project. Another $1,455,000 is coming from the Washington State Capital Appropriation, $497,440 from the city of Des Moines, and $360,000 from the Transportation Improvement Board, to reach the total cost of the project at $4.7 million.

When completed, the boardwalk will boast a new design of solid concrete slabs, stamped with a wood grain texture that will be colored with a low volatility organic compound stain to make it appear as wooden slats. Waterside pilings will be reinforced with pipes filled with concrete to help protect the new boardwalk from future damage from storms and large pieces of driftwood.

Stainless steel railings will be installed along the walkway and low-level accent lights will illuminate the deck surface during twilight hours. A raised pedestrian crossing intersection for added safety will be installed at the project's healthy contingency fund, Merges said.

The Redondo Boardwalk, currently still in ruins after storm in November 2014, will soon have a new look.

By Konner Hancock
Staff Reporter

Stereotypes and cultural biases negatively label and affect everyone, a Highline adviser said here last week.

Elizabeth Rangel, Bachelor of Applied Science Admissions Adviser at Highline, spoke Feb. 23 at the second annual Latin@ Summit, a two-day event that included workshops and speakers that provided information for Latino students to be successful in education. The free summit was open to all Highline students and the many invited high schools.

"Within our society and communities, stereotypes are used to classify a person or generalize a group," Rangel said.

She talked about how there are many stereotypes and prejudices toward Latino people and that those stereotypes and prejudices are commonly used among all cultures, including Latinos.

"Are you so different than me?" Rangel asked.

Among the student answers were "whitewashed," "border jumper," and "cheater."

Then, Rangel asked, "What effects do these names have on us?"

"It places a label," student said. These terms, whether coming from someone of one's own ethnicity or another's, give Latinos and Latino culture a bad name, she said. The cultural biases and stereotypes create a negative view on Latino life and how people of Latino cultural operate.

The Redondo Boardwalk, currently still in ruins after storm in November 2014, will soon have a new look.


### Habits for those in need of homes

**By Taylor Lee**  
Staff Reporter

Orientation for an upcoming Habitat for Humanity service day is being held today for students looking to add some community service to their resumes.

Founded in 1976, Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization that builds and refurbishes homes for families in need all around the world. They have built homes for more than 6.7 million people.

The service day and orientation are hosted by the Non-Traditional Students Club. “We are a club designed to teach students who are not part of the usual college student demographic,” said Vanessa Primer, secretary of the club. “Highline students are extremely diverse. We have members of many different ethnicities and age groups.”

Not only will volunteers be helping build the home, they will receive hands-on training from contracting professionals, said Heather Cade, club president. “We are all about giving back,” Cade said. “This is our first year doing a service day with Habitat for Humanity. We hope to make this a regular event every spring.”

Organizing the event thus far has been very easy and smooth, said Cade. “We are very excited to be able to do this service day with Habitat for Humanity,” Cade said. “I can’t begin to describe how rewarding this will be.”

The service day is set for May 20 at a site in Pierce County, said Cade. The actual location has not been revealed. “There is no cost to attend the service day, everything is free,” she said. “All we need are dedicated volunteers who want to make a difference.”

The organization will take place at 1:30 p.m. in Building 6, room 302. For more information, contact Julie Bradbury at lippazanna@students.highline.edu.

### Cables keep the world connected

**By Jessica Strand**  
Staff Reporter

A network of cables containing thin strands of glass run across the ocean to keep the world connected.

Kurt Geissel and Kip Wanzer from Highline’s Information Technology Services department talked about the history and advancements of fiber optics at the Science Seminar on Feb. 26.

Fiber optics are thin strands of silica, smaller than a human hair, that transmit data using light, Geissel said.

“Single-mode cables have an eight to nine micron core,” Wanzer said. “For reference, a human hair I usually between 17 and 150 microns, so its much smaller than a human hair.”

“You have a light source at one end and a receiver on the other, which we call a transceiver, and it sends pulses of light down and the other end picks it up,” Geissel said.

Copper was the material originally used for data transmission, and the first subma- rine transatlantic cable was laid in between 1854 and 1858.

The first transatlantic cable went from Ireland to Canada,” Geissel said. “The first message was sent with Morris Code and it was a 98-word message.”

The message took 16 hours to travel from shore to shore, which calculates out to 0.07 bits per second. “In an attempt to speed the message up, they turned the current up and fried the cables, destroying four years of work after only three weeks of use,” Geissel said.

One hundred years later, in 1958, lasers were developed, which are essential in fiber optics. “In 1970, strands of silica with titanium for strength were developed, and fiber optics were born.”

“In the late ’70s and early ’80s — which was the fiber optic revolution – telecom companies began exclusively using these fiber optics for their networks,” Geissel said.

In 1996 the first fiber optics transatlantic cables were laid. “They did a speed test at 4 terabits per second, that’s about 57 quadrillion times faster than that very first message,” Geissel said.

Today, submarine cables run as deep as five miles to every continent.

### Relief for veterans suffering from Agent Orange

**By Freddy Groves**

It took six years and an aggressive attorney, but a Blue Water Sailor has finally been given full benefits for Agent Orange exposure.

When the sailor first applied in 2010 for benefits for ischemic heart disease due to AO exposure, the response was typical: The VA said no because he’d been on a carrier out at sea.

He continued to appeal. And appeal. And appeal.

The VA finally told him to either go away or go to court. Naturally he chose court and got an attorney.

The VA was ordered to take another look at the facts and finally decided that 100 percent disability for ischemic heart disease due to AO exposure was appropriate, back-dated to when symptoms first appeared, many years earlier.

If you were on a ship near Vietnam, the questions to consider are: If you were assigned to a ship and were flown out to it, where had the plane been? Was the plane contaminated and bringing AO every time it landed on a carrier? Did you unload cargo from those planes or work on them? Did the ship ever bring on fresh fruits and vegetables? Did the ship ever dock? Did it take on water for distillation inside the 12-mile limit? Did your mail and supplies sit on the runway near the AO storage area in Da Nang?

Meanwhile, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act (HR-969) was recently introduced in the House of Representatives.

The legislation will give AO presumptives to sailors and Marines who served in offshore waters of Vietnam.

If you’re fighting the VA, go online to The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program at vetsprobono.org. You can hook up with a specially trained attorney — for free — who will take your case. You’ll pay nothing unless you win back entitlement.

### TRANSFER STUDENTS!

Check out BASTYR UNIVERSITY’S HEALTH programs!
- Acupuncture  
- Health Psychology  
- Exercise Science  
- Herbal Sciences  
- Midwifery  
- Naturopathic Medicine  
- Nutrition

An admissions advisor from Bastyr will be at Highline to give a presentation on these programs and how to transfer! Find out what the admissions requirements are, including required prerequisites and grades for the programs you are interested in.

**Bring your questions!**

**Thursday, March 10**

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Highline Transfer Center, Building 6, 1st floor, Room 164

No need to sign up to attend

### Put some spring in your program!

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Contact Joe Song at 206-592-3292
Bus fares may go down for students
By Mateo Cortez
Staff Reporter

Although Sound Transit fares increased on both the express buses and trains beginning March 1, some Highline students may actu-
ally see their transportation costs decrease if they are able to take advantage of a new reduced-fare option. Rates have increased 2.5 cents across all categories for Sound Transit, except for Sounder.

Additionally, rates for Sounder trains have gone up 50 cents for adults and youth, while the increase for seniors and people with disabilities has increased just 25 cents.

Link light rail fares also increased 25 cents for adults (19 and older) to $3 and youth prices (6-18) increased to $1.50.

But people whose annual household income is at or below 200 percent of the fed-
eral poverty level may be able to apply for the ORCA LIFT Reduced Fare Program that allows for a reduced fare. It will reduce the cost of a bus fares from $2.75 per ride to $1.50 per ride.

In addition to the Sound Transit options, the ORCA LIFT card works on any of these transit options: King County Express bus, King Tran-
sit, King County water Taxi, and the Seattle Streetcar.

Some Highline students say they feel the new low-income fare is a really big help financially.

Jyg Morales, a Highline student who takes the A-line to and from Bastyr University every day said the new low-in-
come option would help him out tremendously.

“Having just started my job, I really don’t have that much income at the moment,” he said. “The current prices are friendly, but still relatively high.”

Morales said if he qualifies for the new low-income fare option, he would use it and said other students who take the bus three to five times a week should consider applying for the low-income option or an ORCA LIFT card if they have not already.

The new low-income program will require students who apply for an ORCA LIFT card to provide proof of income, ethnicity or other identifiers.

Students may apply for the new low-income program and an ORCA LIFT card at any of the authorized enroll-
ment offices around King County.

Interfaith
continued from page 1

People were also urged to resist stereotyping and scapegoating those who are minorities, and to respect the human rights of all people.

The first speaker, Shiek Is-
mail Ahmed, spoke about re-
specting people’s differences.

“We are required to respect each other, live in harmony, and thank God for our differences,” said Ahmed.

The word Islam comes from the word salaaah, which means peace, he said. He told the crowd it is society’s will by God to be good and kind to one an-
other.

Ali Taj, the next speaker, shared his personal story of ra-
cial profiling. A few days after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, an FBI agent came to his office to investigate. Although the agent clarified Taj was not being tar-
g eted, the FBI agent still needed to question him on where-
abouts that day.

“We need to look to where the problem is,” said Taj. “Ex-
pose those people who exude hate.”

Taj told the audience to take an honest look at what is hap-
pening in their communities and to be wary of extremes.

Imam Benjamin Shabazz used his funny and lighthearted banter to talk about stereotyp-
ing and scapegoating minori-
 ties.

To read the Quran and to un-
derstand how to live the Quran are two very different things, he said.

“People can take the scripture of a religious text and twist it to mean whatever they desire, it isn’t always beneficial to all of humanity,” said Shabazz.

“We don’t all think one way,” he said. “But we who want to do the right thing think the same way.”

What the terrorist attack-
ers are doing is not instruction from God, it is the devil that produces these malicious ac-
tions, he said.

“Common sense tells you there is not one God that will in-
struct you to kill innocent people,” Shabazz said.

Scapegoating is defined as the action or process of casting blame on an innocent individ-
ual or group; if people stand together and love each other at high times, then people will show Satan that we recognize his tricks and attempts to pull mankind apart, he said.

Kyllo, as the final speaker of the night, discussed having neighborly relations between Muslims and Christians.

“It’s a distance we put between ourselves and our neighbors to allow space for people to project unjustified fears onto members of minority groups, said Kyllo.

“To lose our neighbor means to work for their well-be-
ing,” said Kyllo. “Not just to have warm feelings for them. The one you think is your en-
emy is not only worthy of your love, but is also capable of lov-
ing you.”

To end the problem, Kyllo said people should actively look for the most vulnerable person around and make sure they are okay.

People live in a world of sev-
en billion people with a daily overwhelming media avalanche of negativity, otherwise known as the “fear industry,” Kyllo said. This industry was created and continues to thrive on be-
ging the most famous or the highest hate groups that target Muslims or other minorities.

Kyllo challenged people to break from their regular rou-
tines and be a neighbor; get to know them and love them.

By building a network of relation-
ships, we can decrease the fear, which comes from misunder-
standing.

During the question and answer part of the night, all of the speakers gave advice and clarification to the audience.

“Be kind, but be honest,” said Kyllo. Even though some questions may be difficult, he encouraged people to “say it, because my friends can take it.”

On the topic of media, some-
one from the crowd asked what people could do to prevent the negative light cast by the media on Muslims.

The speakers gave the fol-
lowing example of how media negatively portrays minori-
ties: If there are mass murders committed by white Christian males, the media uses language such as “loner,” “bad apple,” or “crazy man.” But if there is a mass murderer who is Muslim, they are called “terrorists” or “Islam-
estic extremists.”

Taj answered by saying peo-
ple need to understand the me-
dia makes generalizations about groups and should actively ask media sites to clarify who in particular is preaching hate or exactly which people are the problem. It is okay to explicitly ask the media to be fair, said the speakers.

Another person questioned how to befriend someone of the Muslim, or other minority community, without culturally misstepping.

One of the speakers said not to put white guilt on people or don’t try to over-function. In-
stead, honestly tell the new friend that eventually there will be a misstep and the friend may be offended, Kyllo said.

Everyone has to learn; that’s a major part of friendship, speakers said.

While a majority of the crowd had positive reactions, a few spoke out in opposition. Speaking for a friend who was not at the event, one man con-
dessed serious concerns with the Muslim and the Islamic re-
ligion.

Shabazz said Muhammad, an Islamic prophet send by God to guide humanity, was the most influential person because he was the only person ever to lead a bloodless revolution and successfully reform some of the most ignorant (as in lack-
ing knowledge) people into the most educated.

People should research about the Islamic religion themselves to gain multiple perspectives on these issues, Taj said.

“Take the log out of your own eye before removing the splinter from someone else’s,” Kyllo said.

The event drew many locals from around the area, while some travelled from Seattle to hear this message.

Students from Highline who were at the event said they en-
joyed how the speakers used re-
gligious aspects as motivation for people to talk to each other.

Sandra Robinson, who will be attending Highline in the spring, said she now is looking for local mosques so she can sit in and observe the service.

The interfaith talk helped Robinson understand how to build new relationships with people, she said.

“It gave me a point of refer-
ence,” said Charles Reinmuth, a local resident. “It grounded me and helped me talk about issues and go forward to speak out for all people who are op-
pressed.”

Reinmuth and Robinson said they admired the amount of respect shown by both the audience and speakers at the event.

While extra credit offered by their teacher is what brought a group of students from Seattle to attend the presentation, the students agreed it was edu-
cational and said it was an eye-opening experience to lis-
ten to speakers of Islam for the first time.

Al Vraspit, from Feder-
al Way, said that his curiosity and the new book he is reading about Islam brought him to the event.

He said the event was refresh-
 ing because it cleared up many of his questions and helped him better understand the religion as explained in the book.
Economy
continued from page 1

Panattoni recently requested that the city allow them to begin clearing the trees in the location where the new FAA headquarters will go.

Matthias said the business park provides an enormous opportunity for the city.

"There could be between 3,000 and 4,000 new jobs," he said.

New development could mean new revenue for the city’s long-suffering tax base. Des Moines has been feeling pressure for a number of years.

Matthias said that cities collect two types of tax revenue from development projects: initial one-time revenue and structural revenue.

One-time revenue comes from one-time expenditures, such as permits or sales tax on a project’s construction materials. As the name implies, this type of tax revenue cannot be counted on in the future.

Structural revenue is continuous throughout a developments existence. This type of tax revenue comes from property, business taxes, and sales taxes.

Matthias said tax revenue is "very hard to anticipate" due to the variables involved in a project.

The city is also watching mixed-use developments in the downtown core, such as the Adriana Senior Apartments, and Seascape, a commercial/residential project, which would fill the fenced-off pit along Marine View Drive.

Matthias also said the city has plans to redevelop the area around the Des Moines Marina.

"We’re in the process of seeing how something like that might work," he said. "It’s a huge opportunity."

Des Moines Mayor Matt Pina said the city will do its best to preserve the waterfront community and marina.

The city is also monitoring the Landmark on the Sound, which was recently sold to land developer George Heidgerken.

Built in 1926 by the Freemasons, the Landmark was originally built as a retirement home, and functioned as such into the early 2000s. Until last year, the facility was used as an events center.

As part of a 27-acre campus located on Marine View Drive, the Landmark offers sweeping views of Puget Sound, stained glass windows and a classic wood interior, as well as large grounds.

"It’s like a jewel," Matthias said. "I think this is a highly developable property."

Mayor Pina is also optimistic about the future of Des Moines.

"I’m very positive," Mayor Pina said. "We have things going on that we’ve needed for a long time. [The future] is very bright."

Matthias attributes the recent spur of development to a number of different circumstances.

"What’s driving a lot of it is the comparably low land cost [as opposed to Bellevue or other developable areas]," he said. "We’re in play."

Matthias said the rapid growth of Seattle-Tacoma International Airport also helps.

"We want to capture all of that expanded employment base," Matthias said the city is doing its best to reach out to developers and be as helpful as possible, which included easing access to rezoning and permits.

"The market likes to mitigate risk and uncertainty," he said. "The faster we do that, the more signal to investors."

"Some cities, you have to go back [to city hall] six to seven times. We want to cut those heavy costs." Mayor Pina said the city has looked at all of their zoning and worked through many of their codes and ordinances with developers.

"We’re getting pretty good at it," Matthias said.

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